

## **AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS**

Please **AMEND** claim 8 as shown below.

The following is a complete list of all claims in this application.

Claims 1-7 (Cancelled)

8. (currently amended) A multiple stage pump for use in a hydraulically controlled fuel injector system, comprising:

at least two pumps; and

at least two means for regulating and maintaining a linear flow control of fluid from the at least two pumps, respectively, the at least two means being downstream from the at least two pumps in a respectively same line as the at least two pumps, wherein the at least two means for regulating and maintaining a linear flow control includes:

a first check valve downstream from a first pump of the at least two pumps and a first means of the at least two means, and

a second check valve downstream<sup>upstream</sup> from a second pump of the at least two pumps and a second means of the at least two means.

9. (previously presented) The multiple stage pump of claim 8, further comprising a merged line downstream from the at least two means for regulating and maintaining a linear flow control.

10. (previously presented) The multiple stage pump of claim 9, wherein the at least two means for regulating and maintaining a linear flow control are control valves, flow valves or on/off valves.

11. (previously presented) The multiple stage pump of claim 9, wherein the at least two means for regulating and maintaining a linear flow control are pressure regulated valves.

12. (previously presented) The multiple stage pump of claim 9, wherein the at least two means for regulating and maintaining a linear flow control are pressure relief valves.

13. (previously presented) The multiple stage pump of claim 9, wherein the at least two means for regulating and maintaining a linear flow control are each a set of valves.

14-21. (canceled)

22. (previously presented) The multiple stage pump of claim 8, wherein the at least two means for regulating and maintaining a linear flow control maintains a steady state control of the fluid pressure of the at least two pumps.

23. (previously presented) The multiple stage pump of claim 8, wherein the at least two means for regulating and maintaining a linear flow control additionally includes:

- a first valve in fluid communication with the first pump;
- a second valve in fluid communication with the second pump;
- a first set of valves positioned in line with first pump; and
- a second set of valves positioned in line with the second pump.

24. (previously presented) The multiple stage pump of claim 23, wherein:

the first set of valves are a first governing throttle valve in fluid communication with a first pressure control valve,

the second set of valves are a second governing throttle valve in fluid communication with a second pressure control valve,

and a pressure delta in the first and second governing throttle valves control the flow through the first and second pressure control valves, respectively.

25. (previously presented) The multiple stage pump of claim 8, wherein the at least two means for regulating and maintaining a linear flow control maintain a constant pressure within a merged line downstream from the at least two pumps.

26. (previously presented) The multiple stage pump of claim 8, wherein the linear flow control is maintained over different pumping stages.